

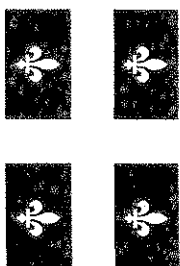
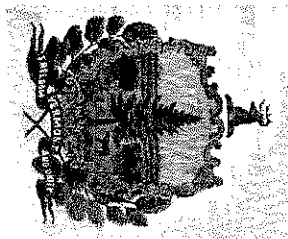
From: Kunin, Lisa [Lisa.Kunin@vermont.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 8:44 AM

To: Kunin, Lisa

Subject: Cooperation Agreement Between Vermont and Quebec - Signed 2-18-13

Attachments: SEXE-Copier13022008330.pdf



COOPERATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF VERMONT

AND

THE GOUVERNEMENT DU QUÉBEC

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF VERMONT,

represented by the Governor, Peter Shumlin

AND

THE GOUVERNEMENT DU QUÉBEC,

represented by the Premier, Pauline Marois

Hereinafter called the Parties,

WHEREAS the State of Vermont and Québec share a common border, historical ties and interests;

WHEREAS the State of Vermont and Québec and have maintained a close working relationship for many years and this relationship has become even closer under the Cooperation Agreement signed on December 4, 2003;

WHEREAS the State of Vermont and Québec enjoy a productive partnership in the fields of the trading of goods and services, renewable energy and transportation;

WHEREAS the State of Vermont and Québec and also enjoy a productive partnership in the field of the environment, especially in the framework of the Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog and Missisquoi Bay agreements;

WHEREAS the State of Vermont and Québec have expanded their collaboration to exchanges of information related to law enforcement under the Supplementary Understanding signed on December 4, 2003, and to the agriculture and agri-food sectors under the Amendment to the Cooperation Agreement of December 4, 2003 and signed on March 11, 2010;

WISHING to further develop their cooperation in the areas of economic development, energy, transportation, the environment, agriculture, security, justice, education and tourism;

WISHING also to expand this cooperation to the areas of culture and health;

ON THE STRENGTH OF relations between their respective business communities, institutions and government departments and agencies;

AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING:

SECTION I

The Parties shall encourage and promote cooperation, to the extent of their respective authority, in the fields of economic development, energy, the environment, security, justice, tourism, transportation, education, agriculture, culture and health as well as exchanges between institutions of higher learning, agencies and businesses in the State of Vermont and Québec.

SECTION 2

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Parties shall promote the shared vision to accelerate the lawful flow of people, goods, and services across the border to support mutual economic competitiveness, job creation and prosperity while enhancing security. Joint initiatives to reduce regulatory burdens upon small businesses are of special interest.

The Parties shall encourage the participation of businesses and economic development agencies in international trade events being held in Vermont and Québec.

The Parties shall facilitate meetings and matchmaking between businesses in Vermont and Québec at international trade shows being held in the United States and Canada and they agree to carry out joint marketing activities such as trade missions and buyer hospitality initiatives in order to be part of major North American business networks.

The Parties shall also encourage their respective business communities to establish partnerships and implement economic cooperation initiatives in areas such as information and communications technology, aerospace supply chain, renewable energy, defence and wastewater treatment.

SECTION 3

ENERGY

The Parties reaffirm the importance of their long working partnership in the energy sector.

In that respect, they point out that Vermont utilities import large quantities of electricity from Québec, and Hydro-Québec is a major supplier for Vermont. In addition, Vermont is a gateway to New England for the transmission of hydroelectricity produced in Québec.

The Parties acknowledge the interaction between their respective networks, which are linked to Vermont by the two Hydro-Québec interconnections.

The Parties undertake to continue their collaboration and to provide mutual assistance, notably in the event of a natural disaster or major disturbance to the electrical transmission network.

The Parties agree to exchange information and expertise relating to the development of renewable energy, notably wind energy; the development and implementation of smart grid technology, which may facilitate integration of intermittent renewable and electric vehicles; the implementation of innovative energy efficiency programs and the supply of clean energy for the Northeastern Region.

SECTION 4

ENVIRONMENT

The Parties reiterate their commitment to pursuing the close working partnership that has developed between the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and the *Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement, de la Faune et des Parcs du Québec* in the framework of the agreements on cross-border water management:

- the Environmental Cooperation Agreement on Managing the Waters of Lake Memphrémagog and its Watershed between the Government of the State of Vermont and the Gouvernement du Québec signed on December 4, 2003, amended on October 6, 2008, which replaces the Agreement signed on September 19, 1989;
- the Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Cooperation on the Management of Lake Champlain between the State of New York, the State of Vermont and the Gouvernement du Québec, signed on March 11, 2010, replacing the MOUs signed previously on August 23, 1989, August 18, 1992, October 28, 1996, November 28, 2000, and July 2, 2003; and

- the Agreement between the Government of the State of Vermont and the Gouvernement du Québec Concerning Phosphorus Reduction in Missisquoi Bay signed on August 27, 2002.

With respect to the agreement concerning Lake Memphremagog, the Parties agree to combine their efforts to protect the quality of the water in the lake, which is used for potable-water purposes.

With respect to the memorandum of understanding concerning Lake Champlain, the Parties agree to pay special attention to the water level of the lake and to collaborate with various authorities, particularly the Steering Committee for the Lake Champlain Basin Program, in order to prevent flooding and mitigate future flood damage.

With respect to the agreement concerning Missisquoi Bay, the Parties agree to combine their efforts in order to limit the proliferation of cyanobacteria.

In addition to the ongoing cooperation on cross-border water management, the Parties may consult each other on other environmental issues of common interest.

SECTION 5

SECURITY

The Parties acknowledge the need for cross-border collaboration in the area of security in order to deal with shared public safety issues, including transnational organized crime and terrorism.

The Parties also plan to continue the collaboration established under the Supplementary Understanding to the Cooperative Agreement with Respect to the Exchange of Law Enforcement Information.

The Parties encourage the bilateral cooperation and partnership to address security threats urgently and quickly while maintaining respect for privacy, civil liberties and human rights.

The Parties agree, among other things, to:

- combine their efforts to better protect their shared border regions;
- take a joint leadership role in matters related to security within the framework of the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers;

- encourage exchanges of information, between law enforcement agencies, in order to deal with shared issues of public safety and enhance border security;
- improve and formalize exchanges in criminal proceedings, among other means by signing a mutual assistance framework understanding with respect to concurrent jurisdiction and extraterritorial jurisdiction;
- continue to expand collaboration in criminal proceedings with partner states in the Northeastern United States;
- conduct joint exercises and training to enhance and evaluate these collaborative efforts.

SECTION 6

JUSTICE

The Parties agree to continue their discussions with a view to ensuring the expansion of their legal cooperation in family matters and, in particular, to accelerate the procedures required to enable the reciprocal enforcement of support orders between Vermont and Québec.

SECTION 7

TOURISM

The Parties agree to continue exchanges of expertise in the area of tourism to further requests expressed by the other Party. As tourism is a constantly changing sector, the expertise covered by these exchanges shall be identified by both parties as needs dictate.

SECTION 8

TRANSPORTATION

The Parties shall collaborate and encourage cooperation between the broadest possible range of public and private stakeholders with a view towards improving the flow of goods and people, increasing the safety, security, and efficiency of transportation systems and avoiding new trade barriers so as to contribute to regional economic development and competitiveness.

The Vermont Agency of Transportation and the *ministère des Transports du Québec* agree to give priority to the following initiatives and projects:

- collaborating, within the limits of their mandates, with American and Canadian federal departments and agencies with authority in cross-border matters to help maintain and improve traffic fluidity and increase security at the fifteen common border crossings, mainly at the Highgate Springs / Saint-Armand (I-89 / A-35 – Route 133) and Derby Line / Stanstead (I-91 / A-55) border stations;
- cooperating to improve passenger rail links between the United States and Québec, notably by extending the Vermonter service to Montréal and implementing US preclearance and Canadian customs clearance services in Montréal, and to move high-speed rail corridor projects forward;
- supporting and participating in transportation initiatives from the Northeast and Atlantic region, including initiatives aiming at improving energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing trade, and designating and developing trade corridors;
- exchanging information and analyzing possible avenues for cooperation with regard to American and Canadian federal transportation initiatives or initiatives having an impact on the efficiency of transportation systems, such as cross-border programs and the *Beyond the Border* initiative;
- exploring possibilities of harmonizing regulations and standards regarding transportation services between Vermont and Québec;
- studying possible improvement to multimodal transportation systems between Vermont and Québec;
- exchanging information on road safety, emergency services and highway operations and maintenance on both sides of the border;
- ensuring renovation and maintenance of the East Richford / Sutton international bridge by signing an agreement to this effect;
- expanding, improving and promoting the use of cross-border bicycle trails between Vermont and Québec;
- developing and deploying intelligent transportation systems (ITS) including traveler information (511, Internet access in rest areas, etc.), traffic management, monitoring and winter road management systems.

SECTION 9

EDUCATION

The Parties shall support cooperation and exchanges in the field of education between institutions and establishments of higher learning in Vermont and Québec.

SECTION 10

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD GOODS

The Parties shall facilitate the exchange of information and expertise between producers, processors, educational institutions, policymaking bodies, and organizations supporting agricultural and food system viability in Vermont and Québec.

The Parties shall encourage cross-border commerce and travel for agricultural products and food specialties.

The Parties shall collaborate to strengthen cross-border agritourism opportunities.

The Parties shall pursue opportunities for exchanging information related to their respective systems for identifying and marketing “place-based” food products that are unique to a region of Vermont or Québec.

The parties shall share best practices related to food system infrastructure and development.

The parties also shall work collaboratively to share information and technology that promotes agricultural land uses while protecting the environment.

SECTION 11

CULTURE

The Parties wish to promote cultural exchanges between Vermont and Québec in the areas of the performing arts (traditional music and dance) and cinema (including the twinning of festivals), as well as any other type of cultural activity that contributes to the enrichment of inter-community relations.

The Parties also agree to promote the exchanges of artists, works of art and cultural products, in a spirit of international good will.

SECTION 12

HEALTH

The Parties wish to explore possibilities for collaboration and exchanges in the field of health policy and healthcare delivery systems between governments, institutions, universities and establishments in Vermont and Québec.

SECTION 13

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT

The Parties confirm the role of the Joint Vermont - Québec Committee created under the Cooperation agreement between the Government of the State of Vermont and the Gouvernement du Québec, signed at Québec City, on December 4, 2003, as the body in charge of the implementation of this agreement.

This Committee shall meet at least once every two years, alternating between Vermont and Québec, in order to:

- a) examine and approve, in fields of mutual interest, activities and projects to be undertaken within the framework of a biennial cooperation program;
- b) determine the approaches to be used to carry out the activities and projects selected under the biennial cooperation program and determine the resources required by both Parties to ensure their efficient implementation;
- c) monitor the activities undertaken under this agreement, evaluate the results and, as warranted, make the required adjustments;
- d) examine all issues related to the implementation and interpretation of this agreement; and
- e) identify sectoral agreements and joint documents whose signature is planned in the subsequent two years.

SECTION 14

EXPANSION CLAUSE

The Parties may expand this agreement by mutual consent to include new areas of cooperation or broaden existing areas of cooperation and, as warranted, supplement them by the signing of agreements, minutes, reports, or any joint document associated with specific sectors, activities or projects.

SECTION 15

FINAL PROVISIONS

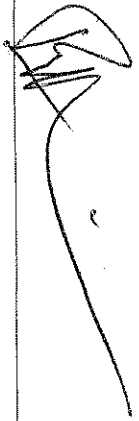
This agreement revokes and replaces, as of the date hereof, the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the State of Vermont and the Gouvernement du Québec, signed at Québec City, on December 4, 2003, and the Amendment to the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the State of Vermont and the Gouvernement du Québec, signed at Québec City, on March 11, 2010.

This agreement shall be in full force and effect on the day it is signed by the Parties and shall remain in full force and effect until terminated by notice given in writing by one or the other Party. This agreement shall terminate the 180th day following the said notice in writing.

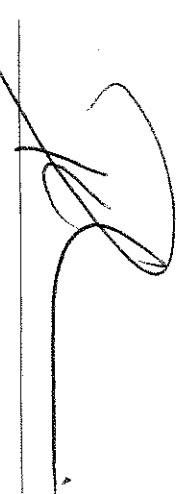
Signed at *Montreal, Québec* on this *18th* day of *February* 2013, in duplicate, in English and in French, both texts being equally authentic.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE STATE OF VERMONT

FOR THE *GOVERNEMENT*
DU QUÉBEC



Peter Shumlin
Governor



Pauline Marois
Premier